

# News Release



## ***Controller of the State of California - Kathleen Connell***

**300 Capitol Mall, Suite 1850  
Sacramento, California 95814**

***Contact: Stacey Ragland (916) 445-2636***

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

### **STATE CONTROLLER KATHLEEN CONNELL TO MAKE CALWORKS PAYMENT TO COUNTIES**

**Sacramento, June 28, 2002** – State Controller Kathleen Connell today announced that she will make the CalWORKS payment despite the Department of Social Services' announcement yesterday that the Appellate Court decision rendered in the *Howard Jarvis* case precludes payment.

"I want to assure the counties that the CalWORKS payments will be made by my office just as they have been every other year the Budget has not been enacted in a timely fashion," stated Controller Connell. "There simply is no justification for the Department of Social Services to attempt to stop payments on the basis of a decision that has not yet become final. My office is currently appealing the Appellate Court decision to the California Supreme Court. Until the Supreme Court acts, I am not bound by the Appellate Court's decision."

Since the inception of the CalWORKS program, the Department of Social Services has routinely submitted a claim schedule to the State Controller's Office in June so that a payment would be made in July, notwithstanding the passage of the Budget. This year, consistent with past practices, the Department of Social Services submitted a claim for payment certifying under penalty of perjury that there was legal authority to make the CalWORKS payment. However, despite certifying the validity of the request, the Department of Social Services reversed its longstanding position and announced that there was no legal authority to issue the payment.

"I am deeply troubled that the Department had sent over their Certification and then withdrew it apparently from pressure from the Administration," expressed Controller Connell. "A failure to make the payment would place a tremendous financial burden on the counties and individuals that cannot afford to be made pawns in the political process. I believe that the *Jarvis* decision is not an obstacle to making the payment and, therefore, the payment will be made based upon the Certification received earlier from the Department."

The July CalWORKS payment is approximately \$245,000,000. An additional \$100,000,000 for June expenditures will be made at the same time. The payments will be released today as scheduled.

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***To arrange an interview with State Controller Kathleen Connell,  
please contact Stacey Ragland at (916) 445-2636***